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AN UNUSUAL GRAAFIAN FOLLICLE.

ELLISON A. SMYTH, JR.

In the fall of 1906 I became possessed of a young setter pup, with an interesting family history : her mother a rather small Gordon setter, had given birth to her first litter, to which my pup belonged, in June, 1906, which litter consisted of fourteen pups, four dogs and ten sluts. Two died when three or four months old, and the rest were successfully raised. The mother had seven tits in lactation.

For reasons of convenience I had this pup spayed in March, 1907, she being then ten months old. The ovaries I killed at



FIG. 1.

once in Flemming's solution and sectioned for class use. They showed a number of ripe follicles, not a few containing double and triple ova, though not all the extra ova were normal. Several serial sections on one slide, however, showed a large follicle

about ripe with two perfect ova at opposite poles ; in each of these ova the nucleus was normal and the chromatin elements and network and also nucleolus perfect and beautifully distinct. Unfortunately I partially destroyed this slide through a vexatious accident. I obtained, however, another pair of ovaries from another pup, and on sectioning found many follicles with two, a number with three, a few with four, and one follicle with seven ova in clear view. As far as I can ascertain this is the greatest number of ova recorded from any mammalian follicle. The case is especially interesting on account of the family history. The mother setter has never had another litter. One of her daughters littered in July, 1907, having nine pups, three dogs and six sluts, with eight tits in lactation.

These facts are interesting in their suggestiveness along heredity lines, and also as to the relation between multiple ova in follicles, and large number of offspring.

The micro-photograph is of this follicle of seven ova, $\times 90$.

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